

Attorney Docket No.: 00.22US

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Maes, et al.

Serial No.: 09/773,351

Group Art Unit: 1619

Filed: January 31, 2001

Examiner: Willis, M.

For: Cholesterol Sulfate and Amino Sugar Compositions for Enhancement of Stratum Corneum Function

#18/c
HKO
10/11/02

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

The following Preliminary Amendment is submitted as a further response to the Final Office Action dated May 1, 2002 and the Advisory Action dated August 27, 2002. Applicants previously filed, on August 28, 2000, a response to the Final Office Action, which was considered but not deemed to place the application in condition for allowance. Concurrently herewith, Applicants file a request for continued examination, and respond herein to comments made by the Examiner in the Advisory Action. Therefore, it is requested that the following amendments be entered and the following remarks be considered.

CLEAN AMENDMENTS

Please amend the claims as follows in their clean form. The marked amendments are found on a separate page attached herewith.

C1
Sub
PI
1. A composition for topical application to the skin comprising a mixture of effective amounts of cholesterol sulfate or salts thereof, and an exfoliant added to a cosmetically or pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

C2
13. A cosmetic or pharmaceutical formulation for topical application of a composition to the skin, the formulation containing a mixture comprising cholesterol sulfate or salts thereof in an amount from about 0.05 to about 5.00 percent, and from about 0.1 to about 10.0 percent by weight of an amino sugar selected from the group consisting of N-acetyl-D-glucosamine, N-acetylgalactosamine, and a combination thereof by weight of the composition added to a cosmetically or pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

C3
Sub
PI
16. A method for improving or maintaining a healthy skin barrier which comprises adding an effective